

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request further examination and consideration in view of the arguments set forth fully below. Claims 1-26 were previously pending in this application. Within the Office Action, claims 1-26 have been rejected. Accordingly, claims 1-26 are currently pending.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-15 and 17-26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0064757 to Yamadera et al. (hereinafter “Yamadera”) in view of U.S. Patent Application No. 7,188,320 to Landers (hereinafter “Landers”). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection because neither Yamadera nor Landers teaches a two-dimensional navigational key configured as a single button including four sets of contact points, wherein the two-dimensional key is configured to select and perform an action corresponding to one of a plurality of sub-menu items of a sub-menu.

Landers is directed to a graphical user interface and related menu display routine for navigating a set of menus listed on a display. Landers teaches a conventional methodology that includes the use of a four-way navigation key (herein “navigation key”) for moving up, down, left, and right on the display and soft keys for performing an action associated with a highlighted menu item, otherwise referred to as accessing the highlighted item. This configuration clearly does not teach the claimed limitations directed to a two-dimensional navigation key configured as a single button having four sets of contacts, where the two-dimensional key is configured to select and perform an action corresponding to one of a plurality of main menu items or sub-menu items.

Landers also teaches a first navigation routine that enables the user to navigate through a set of menus using the navigation key. The set of menus to be navigated is shown in Figure 1 and includes a first menu 10, a second menu 12, a display object 14, and a last menu 16. In other words, a main menu including main menu items 10, 12, 14, and 16, where each main menu item corresponds to a sub-menu. Each of the three sub-menus 10, 12, 16 have a number of sub-menu items, for example a first menu item, a second menu item, a third menu item, a fourth menu item, and a fifth menu item. The first navigation routine is “invoked” using the navigation key. Scrolling through the main menu items (the menus 10, 12, 14, 16) is accomplished by repeatedly pressing the same direction arrow on the navigation key. For example, starting on the first main

menu item 10, pressing the down direction arrow scrolls to the second main menu item 12. Pressing the down arrow again scrolls to the object 14. Pressing the down direction arrow again scrolls to the last main menu item 16. It is only when the last main menu item 16 is highlighted that pressing of the down direction arrow actually performs an action associated with the highlighted menu item, where the action performed is accessing the last menu 16 to select from the last menu items ("first menu item" in menu 16, "second menu item" in menu 16, and so on). Landers is clear on the fact that the first navigation routine only selects and performs an action corresponding to a main menu item when the last main menu item (last menu 16) is highlighted (Landers, Figure 2, elements 22 and 24; col. 4, lines 36-50). Landers is silent as to how to select and perform an action corresponding to the main menu items 10, 12, 14 other than the last main menu item 16. Since Landers teaches the use of the navigation key for highlighting a particular item, and then the use of the soft key to access, otherwise referred to as performing an action corresponding to the highlighted menu item, it is concluded that the other main menu items are accessed by pressing the soft key.

Once the last menu item 16 is highlighted and accessed by repeatedly pressing the down direction arrow, the last menu items (first menu item through fifth menu item of last menu 16) are scrolled through by again pressing the down direction arrow. For example, if the last main menu item 16 is highlighted, pressing the down direction arrow scrolls down to the first menu item (first sub-menu item) of the last menu 16 (main menu item). Pressing the down direction arrow again scrolls to the second menu item in the last menu 16 (Landers, col. 4, lines 57-67). Landers is silent as to how to subsequently perform an action corresponding to a highlighted sub-menu item (the first menu item, the second menu item, the third menu item, the fourth menu item, and the fifth menu item in the last menu 16). Again, since Landers teaches the use of the navigation key for highlighting a particular item, and then the use of the soft key to access the highlighted item, otherwise referred to as performing an action corresponding to the highlighted menu item, it is concluded that the sub-menu items are accessed by pressing the soft key. In other words, two separate buttons, the navigation key and the soft key, are used to select and perform an action corresponding to a sub-menu item (first menu item through fifth menu item of last menu 16) of the sub-menu (last menu 16). In contrast, the claimed limitations are directed to a two-dimensional navigation key configured to select and perform an action corresponding to a sub-menu item of the sub-menu associated with a selected main menu item using the four sets of contact points (of the single button two-dimensional navigation key).

Landers also teaches a second navigation routine that further enables the user to navigate through the set of menus using the navigation key. The second navigation routine “allows a user to exit a menu directly and, using the same navigation key (direction) to exit, scroll to different higher-level menus in the set of menus” (Landers, col. 5, lines 29-31 and 35-38). For example, if the fourth menu item in the last menu 16 is highlighted, pressing the “left” direction arrow of the navigation key moves the highlight (point of focus) to the last menu 16, indicated by highlighting menu label 18c (Landers, col. 5, lines 38-43). Pressing the left direction arrow again scrolls to another main menu item on the same hierarchical level as the last menu, for example menu item 10, 12, or 14 (Landers, col. 5, lines 44-47). The second navigation routine teaches how to back track up the hierarchy of menus. The second navigation routine does not teach how to highlight and access (perform an action corresponding to the highlighted item) a sub-menu item (first menu item through fifth menu item of last menu 16) of a sub-menu (last menu 16).

Within the Office Action, it is acknowledged that Yamadera does not teach four sets of contact points of a 2-D navigational key, where the four sets of contact points are used to select and perform an action corresponding to one of a plurality of main menu items. By extension, Yamadera also does not teach that the navigational key is also configured to select and perform an action corresponding to a sub-menu item of the sub-menu associated with a selected main menu item using the four sets of contact points.

Each of the independent claims 1, 18, and 23 includes the limitation “a two-dimensional navigation key configured as a single-button including four sets of contact points, wherein the two-dimensional navigation key is configured to select and perform an action corresponding to one of a plurality of main menu items of the main menu and to select and perform an action corresponding to a sub-menu item of the sub-menu associated with a selected main menu item using the four sets of contact points” (emphasis added). As described above, Yamadera does not teach a 2-D navigational key including four sets of contact points configured to select and perform an action, and Landers does not teach a single-button 2-D navigational key configured to select and perform an action corresponding to a sub-menu item of a sub-menu associated with a selected main menu item. For at least these reasons, the independent claims 1, 18, and 23 are each allowable over Yamadera in view of Landers. Claims 2-15 and 17 are dependent upon the independent claim 1. Claims 19-22 are dependent upon the independent claim 18. Claims 24-26 are dependent upon the independent claim 23. Accordingly, claims 2-15, 17, 19-22, and 24-26 are allowable as being dependent upon an allowable base claim, and are now in condition for allowance.

Within the Office Action, claim 16 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamadera in view of Landers and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,463,304 to Smethers. Claim 16 is dependent on the independent claim 1. As discussed above, the independent claim 1 is allowable over the teachings of Yamadera in view of Landers. Accordingly, claim 16 is allowable as being dependent upon an allowable base claim, and is now in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

For the reasons given above, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims 1-26 are in a condition for allowance, and allowance at an early date would be appreciated. Should the Examiner have any questions or comments, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned at (408) 530-9700 to discuss the same so that any outstanding issues can be expeditiously resolved.

Respectfully submitted,
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